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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/677,535	10/03/2003	Hideaki Watanabe	8038-1044	9332
466	7590	12/17/2007	EXAMINER	
YOUNG & THOMPSON 745 SOUTH 23RD STREET 2ND FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22202			DUDEK, JAMES A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/677,535	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WATANABE, HIDEAKI	
	<b>Examiner</b> Toan Ton	<b>Art Unit</b> 2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-12 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 13, 14 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 13-14 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over CN 1424615 (IDS) in view of Taylor et al (US 5299043).

'615 discloses a liquid crystal display (LCD) device comprising: a panel unit including a LCD panel and a driver circuit (e.g., 5) for driving the LCD panel; a backlight including a plurality of optical components consecutively mounted on the LCD panel; a housing for receiving therein the panel unit and the backlight, the housing including a front housing member (e.g., 19) formed as a frame and at least one rear housing member (e.g., 8) that together support the panel unit and the backlight, the at least one rear unit (e.g., 8) covering lateral and rear sides of the backlight and the panel unit as a whole, the front housing member and the rear housing member being hingedly coupled together via a coupling structure (e.g., 26a, 26b)

The limitation not disclosed by '615 is the front housing member and the rear housing member *non-detachably* hingely coupled together via a coupling structure. However, Taylor discloses the front housing member and the rear housing member *non-detachably* hingely (e.g., 84, see at least Figure 7) coupled together. Thus, it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the front housing member and the rear housing member *non-detachably* hingely coupled together via a coupling structure

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for achieving advantages such as highly-secured device (due to non-detachable, non-moveable mechanism).

'615 discloses the LCD device comprising a converter substrate (e.g., 13) includes an interface IC for transferring signals and an inverter substrate (e.g., 14, a power source circuit) for supplying electric power to a lamp in the backlight.

'615 discloses the LCD device comprising the front housing member including a first rib (e.g., 22) for aligning the panel unit with respect to the front housing member.

'615 discloses the LCD device comprising the front housing member including a plurality of second ribs (e.g., 23, 24, 25) for aligning said components of the backlight with respect to the front housing member.

'615 discloses the LCD device comprising an end of the rear housing member being coplanar with the front housing member (see at least Figure 8b) .

Claims 1-5, 13-14 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ida et al (5666172) in view of Taylor et al (US 5299043).

Ida discloses a liquid crystal display (LCD) device comprising (see at least Figures 2-5): a panel unit including a LCD panel and a driver circuit (e.g., 411) for driving the LCD panel; a backlight including a plurality of optical components consecutively mounted on the LCD panel; a housing for receiving therein the panel unit and the backlight, the housing including a front housing member (e.g., 500) formed as a frame and at least one rear housing member (e.g., 850) that together support the panel unit and the backlight, the at least one rear unit (e.g., 850) covering lateral and rear sides of the backlight and the panel unit as a whole, the front housing

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member and the rear housing member being hingedly coupled together via a coupling structure (e.g., 523).

The limitation not disclosed by '615 is the front housing member and the rear housing member *non-detachably* hingedly coupled together via a coupling structure. However, Taylor discloses the front housing member and the rear housing member *non-detachably* hingedly (e.g., 84, see at least Figure 7) coupled together. Thus, it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the front housing member and the rear housing member *non-detachably* hingedly coupled together via a coupling structure for achieving advantages such as highly-secured device (due to non-detachable, non-moveable mechanism).

Ida discloses the LCD device comprising an interface IC for transferring signals and a power source circuit for supplying electric power to a lamp in the backlight (see at least Figure 2).

Ida discloses the LCD device comprising the panel unit and the backlight consecutively mounted on the front housing member, and the rear housing member (e.g., 850) being rotatable with respect to the front housing member from a first open position to permit assembly of the panel unit within the housing to a second closed position to cover the lateral and rear sides of the backlight and the panel unit (see at least Figure 5).

Ida discloses the LCD device comprising at least one rear housing member including a plurality of rear housing members coupled to respective edges of the front housing members (see at least Figures 3, 5).

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Ida discloses the LCD device comprising an end of the rear housing member being coplanar with the front housing member (see at least Figure 3).

The use of ribs in LCD housing device is common and known in the art for achieving advantages such as properly alignment of the optical elements of the LCD device so as minimizing damages of the device. Therefore, it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ to ribs for achieving advantages such as properly alignment of the optical elements of the LCD device so as minimizing damages of the device.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claim 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 22 is allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not anticipate nor render obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art a liquid crystal display device comprising a combination of various elements, more specifically, a combination of the followings: at least one rear unit covering lateral and rear sides of the backlight and the panel unit as a whole, the front housing member and the rear housing member being hingedly coupled together via the coupling member formed as a separate piece that is attachable to the front and rear housing members.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 13-14 and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


***Contact Information***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan Ton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2303.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

T. Ton  
December 5, 2007

  
TOAN TON  
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER